

ordinarily, would find the expense too great. Miss Hitchcock, the chairman of the District Nursing Section, and Miss Damer are arranging a very interesting programme, which will be announced in the *JOURNAL* later. There is a prospect of a large and most interesting gathering of people at this conference, and the attractions of the exposition alone will be well worth the journey.

We wish nurses realized more keenly their obligations to their profession as well as to the public and were alive to their opportunities in all the great problems of philanthropy. When the gates are opened, as they have been by the Conference of Charities, and nurses are asked to come in and work side by side with the great reformers of the age, there should be no lagging behind, but a great body should respond—not just a few. With knowledge and opportunity action should follow.

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#### THE CONGRESS OF NURSES IN WASHINGTON

THE meetings of the Superintendents' Society and the Associated Alumnæ are to be held in Washington, D. C., during the first week in May.

It is not too early for members to begin to arrange their plans to attend, and without doubt this will be the greatest gathering of nurses since the meeting in Buffalo. Both associations are arranging most interesting programmes. Washington will be seen at its very best at this date, and with the reductions in railroad transportation that will be secured a great company of nurses should be able to attend. We shall be able to give the full programme for the week in the April *JOURNAL*, and call the attention of our readers to the official announcements in this issue.

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#### PROGRESS OF EDUCATION

IN the department of Training-School Items will be found a copy of the circular letter issued by the North Carolina State Board of Nurse Examiners to the superintendents of training-schools. We understand that the prospect is fair of establishing a preliminary nursing department, as the circular suggests, at the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, as the leading educators in North Carolina are in sympathy with the movement.

California is also moving in the direction of a nursing college. The State nurses' association decided to take steps towards organizing a

nursing department in connection with the California University Summer School, but it was found that the time was too short in which to make satisfactory plans for the coming summer, as the department opens in June, so the whole scheme is to be held over until another year. The association will organize a lecture course for the benefit of its members, and the committee in charge will in the meantime stimulate interest in the subject of higher education in every possible way.

The central preliminary school idea seems to be growing, and we believe eventually we shall see a department of nursing in connection with all of the institutions for higher education, so that before a pupil enters a hospital training-school she will have been prepared, as a medical student is prepared, for the more intelligent understanding of the practical and manual side of nursing, and that the hospitals will be relieved of much of the theoretical instruction that they are now giving. The preliminary courses now established in connection with training-schools are important steps towards the college or central school plan, and we believe it will be developed in the near future. The small hospitals are quite as important as the large ones, and the nurses in the smaller schools must have equal opportunity for a complete nursing education.

The nurses of North Carolina and California are moving in the right direction.

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#### PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE California nurses have found it necessary to make some very radical changes in their bill since it was first drafted. In the first bill a board was asked for to be appointed by the Governor on very much the same lines as the Maryland bill. Then it was found that, owing to some cause for criticism in the administration of the commissions of medicine and pharmacy, the establishment of a new commission for nurses would meet with opposition. California has a Board of Regents, and it was decided to change that portion of the bill and substitute conditions similar to those of the New York statute, placing the registration of nurses under the Regents of the University of California, the examiners to be nurses selected by the Regents from nominations made by the State nurses' association.

A small party of nurses have introduced an opposition bill, asking, as we understand it, for the appointment of the special nursing commission upon the lines of the first bill drafted, which the majority have